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ABSTRACT

This report describes the major linguistic minority groups residing in New York (New York). Hispanics are the largest language minority in the city. In 1990, nearly one-quarter of the city's population was of Hispanic origin, and 35% of school children were Hispanic. The Latino population continues to grow through natural increase and immigration. Since 1965, the Asian population has been growing steadily, and by 1990, Asians as a whole represented the second largest group of language minorities in New York city. Immigrants from Asia were likely to speak English less well than members of other immigrant groups. Haiti ranks fifth among countries sending immigrants to New York, and, in 1989, there were more than 6,000 Haitian-Creole-speaking students in the city's public schools. A number of European immigrants, notably Soviet Jewish refugees, are among the limited English speaking students the city's schools serve. There are also significant numbers of language-minority students from the Middle East. The number of New Yorkers for whom English is not the primary language is expected to grow over the next decade, and some projections indicate that by the year 2000, over half the city's population will have been born outside the United States. The city must plan for a linguistically diverse population. (Contains 2 tables, 43 figures, and 39 references.) (SLD)

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